



Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1609

MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Requestor: (x) Health Care Provider () Injured Employee () Insurance Carrier

Requestor's Name and Address:
The Clinic For Special Surgery
900 12th Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104

MDR Tracking No.: M4-03-8943-01

Claim No.:

Injured Employee's Name:

Respondent's Name and Address:
The American Insurance Co.
C/o FO&L
Box 19

Date of Injury:

Employer's Name: Texas Health Resources

Insurance Carrier's No.: 67099882450

PART II: REQUESTOR'S PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION AND POSITION SUMMARY

Not paid at usual and customary as ordered 6/18/03 when final judgment was entered in cause GN202229 in District Court of Travis County, 98th Judicial District.

Principle Documentation: 1. TWCC-60
2. EOB
3. UB-92
4. Operative Report

PART III: RESPONDENT'S PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION AND POSITION SUMMARY

The billing in dispute has been paid at a fair and reasonable rate in accordance with criteria for payment under the ACT.

Principle Documentation: 1. Respondent's response to the initial submission to Dispute Resolution

PART IV: SUMMARY OF DISPUTE AND FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	CPT Code(s) or Description	Part V Reference	Additional Amount Due (if any)
7-30-02	Ambulatory Surgical Center Care	1	\$88.30

PART V: MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY, AND/OR EXPLANATION

1. This dispute relates to services provided in an Ambulatory Surgical Center that are not covered under a fee guideline for this date of service. Accordingly, the reimbursement determined through this dispute resolution process must reflect a fair and reasonable rate as directed by Commission Rule 134.1. This case involves a factual dispute about what is a fair and reasonable reimbursement for the services provided.

After reviewing the documentation provided by both parties, it appears that neither the requestor nor the respondent provided convincing documentation that sufficiently discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that their purported amount is a fair and reasonable reimbursement (Rule 133.307). The failure to provide persuasive information that supports their proposed amounts makes rendering a decision difficult. After reviewing the services, the charges, and both parties' positions, it is determined that no other payment is due.

During the rule development process for facility guidelines, the Commission had contracted with Ingenix, a professional firm specializing in actuarial and health care information services, in order to secure data and information on reimbursement ranges for these types of services. The results of this analysis resulted in a recommended range for reimbursement for workers' compensation services provided in these facilities. In addition, we received information from both ASCs and insurance carriers in the recent rule revision process. While not controlling, we considered this information in order to find data related to commercial market payments for these services. This information provides a very good benchmark for determining the "fair and reasonable" reimbursement amount for the services in dispute.

To determine the amount due for this particular dispute, staff compared the procedures in this case to the amounts that would be within

the reimbursement range recommended by the Ingenix study (from 173.9% to 226.5% of Medicare for 2002). Based on this review and considering the similarity of the various procedures involved in this surgery, staff selected a reimbursement amount in the lower end of the Ingenix range. Operative report indicates that four levels were attempted; however, L4-5 and L5-S1 levels were abandoned due to claimant's instrumentation/hardware obstructed the view of transverse process. Therefore, two levels are reimbursable. In addition, the reimbursement for the secondary procedures were reduced by 50% consistent with standard reimbursement approaches. Also, according to the CMS ASC guidelines lab fees and diagnostic or therapeutic items or services are included in the facility fees and not payable. The total amount was then presented to a staff team with health care provider billing and insurance adjusting experience. This team considered the recommended amount, discussed the facts of the individual case, and selected the appropriate "fair and reasonable" amount to be ordered in the final decision.

Based on the facts of this situation, the parties' positions, the Ingenix range for applicable procedures, and the consensus of other experienced staff members in Medical Review, we find that the fair and reasonable reimbursement amount for these services is \$864.00. Since the insurance carrier paid a total of \$775.70 for these services, the health care provider is entitled to an additional reimbursement in the amount of \$88.30.

PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES IMPACTING DECISION

28 Texas Administrative Code Sec. 134.1
28 Texas Administrative Code Sec. 133.307

PART VII: DIVISION DECISION

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code, Sec. 413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement in the amount of \$88.30. The Division hereby **ORDERS** the insurance carrier to remit this amount plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the Requestor within 30-days of receipt of this Order.

Ordered by:

Authorized Signature

Elizabeth Pickle

Typed Name

September 22, 2005

Date of Decision

PART VIII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST JUDICIAL REVIEW

Appeals of medical dispute resolution decisions and orders are procedurally made directly to a district court in Travis County [see Texas Labor Code, Sec. 413.031(k), as amended and effective Sept. 1, 2005]. An appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable. The Division is not considered a party to the appeal.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.